



The Arlington Advocate

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Arlington resident Robert Cutler conducts research at Spy Pond, where he volunteers.

STAFF PHOTOS BY LEAH FASTEN

Autism doesn't stop Robert Cutler

Activist making a difference

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

The words come slowly, but they carry much weight. Sitting in front of a Dell personal computer, 45-year-old Robert Cutler draws his responses to questions. Key by key, the words come forward. A slice of irony here, a bit of hyperbole there; it's clear, a little repetitive at times, but intent on making a point. He occasionally rumbles or groans, sometimes in syncopation with the typing.

Sitting next to Cutler is Mark Powell, who has worked with Cutler for many years. His face is blank as he guides Cutler's hands and thick fingers across the keyboard. Occasionally, he will fix a typo or add an exclamation point, but otherwise Cutler lets Powell steady his hand. A sentence takes about two to three minutes; a full response 10 to 12.

But the time does not feel wasted.

Robert Cutler has autism, a disability, difference, whatever one wants to call it. He requires help with daily functions; he has a live-in roommate who helps him and additional people who work with him on a daily basis. He requires repetitive devices, like counters and clocks, that provide repetition, rhythm, to keep him calm.

He, like many disabled people, was once institutionalized because his mother, Barbara, perceived him as a danger. And like



Robert Cutler gets a hug from his friend, Mark Powell, at Cutler's home.

many in the system, Robert Cutler came out of that system a different person than when he went in. One with black eyes, a red nose, a scarred psyche.

Though there are some functions Robert Cutler cannot perform, there are plenty of things he achieves quite easily.

Cutler owns his own home on Theresa Circle, due to the lawsuit settlement against the Fernald State School for the abuse he endured there. He is the presi-

dent of the Autism National Committee.

He is an appointed member of the Massachusetts Governor's Council on Disabilities Commission that now doesn't meet at state institutions because Cutler put pressure on them not to do so. He is a regular guest to human service agencies and universities on autism, having traveled as far as England to tell his story. He used to run a paper recycling business on Massachusetts

Avenue, Robert Cutler and Associates, "until it got to the point where we'd lose money," Powell said. He volunteers at and advocates for Spy Pond.

In 1999, Cutler testified at a Supreme Court case (Olmsted vs. L.C. and E.W.) that examined the rights of disabled persons to live in community settings, a right the court reaffirmed in a 6-3 ruling. One excerpt of his testimony said "enough with institutions!"

■ SEE CUTLER, PAGE 15

expressed support for the former U.S. Secretary of Labor. Only Kevin Knobloch, the vice chairman of the local Democratic Committee, goes to the convention without declaring support for one of the Democratic hopefuls.

Reich beat out among others State Senator Thomas Birmingham and State Treasurer Shannon O'Brien, expected to fare well in Arlington among established Democrats. As the long process of tallying votes neared its end on the stage of Arlington High School's Lowe Auditorium, Birmingham local campaign manager Selectman Jack Hurd knew a surprise was brewing.

"These people obviously did their homework," said Hurd. "It's obvious Reich has more people in the room that anybody else. I heard that at least few hundred people signed up to register as Democrats in

■ SEE CAUCUS, PAGE 14

Guidance plan concerns AHS parents, teens

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

It's 10 a.m. on Monday and Arlington High School's Guidance Department is a bustling place.

On one side of the room, college pennants hang on the walls and information is available about schools, scholarships, SATs, and financial aid. Many students are hanging out in the center of the office at a group of desks, reading college catalogs or just talking. Other students are sitting one-on-one with counselors.

Students consider the office just off the main lobby of the high school a lifeline for their future, but also a place where they can just hang out.

"People come here all the time," said senior Lauren Miranian. "It's very informal and people feel comfortable."

Part of the reason that guidance is such a place of solace for high school students is the staff, particularly Director Vincent D'Antona, retiring after 39 years in the school system and 22 years in the slot of director of guidance in March.

D'Antona, according to students, has created an atmosphere of comfort in dealing with two of the most stressful aspects of being a teenager: confronting personal problems and finding the right college.

"You don't really realize until you have a senior at the high school just the gamut of services that guidance offers," said Linda Miranian, Lauren's mother, who was a student in D'Antona's math

class when she was at Arlington High School.

But with D'Antona retiring next month, parents and students say they are concerned that some potential changes to his position will leave the department with less of a guiding force.

The director said he was reluctant to talk about changes since he will have no role in how they play out, but "I really hope that services are preserved here," he said.

D'Antona will speak at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday to explain the role of guidance and parents are expected to present a petition with more than 100 signatures expressing concern about potential changes in the department.

For the 2003 fiscal budget year, where the public schools so far have to make nearly \$1 million in cuts, Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan and Chief Financial Officer David Kale expect to save almost \$51,000 by eliminating the guidance director's position and making the head of guidance similar to a "lead teacher" model. The school system would also reduce the lead teacher's caseload.

If the position is changed and Donovan stressed that it's "not set in stone yet," the schools will take away some of the excess work that [the system] paid them to do during the summer," she said, referring to the director of guidance position.

The director of guidance now is a 12-month job. Under the designation of lead teacher, it would

■ SEE GUIDANCE, PAGE 15

Proposed entrance policy tweaked

Plan would put decision on parents

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

public school systems have a Sept. 1 cutoff date.

Additional changes in the recommendations to change the kindergarten entrance age would leave no formal enforcement of changes until 2005, according to a policy approved by the School Committee's Policy and Procedures Subcommittee last Thursday.

The subcommittee voted 2-1 to take out language in the previously proposed policy that would have required parents to seek a waiver if their child did not meet the entrance age to enroll into kindergarten.

The school system asked to change the cutoff date from Dec. 31 to Aug. 31 after a report produced by the administration showed that the vast majority of

children with fall birthdays have more academic problems in school and younger children have trouble focusing for a full day of kindergarten.

According to the previous plan, students would have been required to reach the age of 5 by Aug. 31 to attend kindergarten starting in the fall of 2003. But under the current recommendation, any parent whose child's birthday falls between Aug. 31 and Dec. 31 can enroll the child as long as they know "it is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Arlington Public Schools and its early education professionals," accord to the recommendation.

■ SEE KINDERGARTEN, PAGE 14

INSIDE

Cast your ballot

Inside this week's newspaper, on Page 26, is a ballot for our Reader's Choice awards. Balloting will continue through February, and votes will be tabulated by an independent firm. Reader's Choice winners will be announced in June. Readers may also cast votes online at www.townonline.com.

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Robert Reich greets Democrats outside Arlington High School Saturday before town Democrats voted in their local caucus. Reich supporters were the overwhelming winners in Arlington.

Reich has super day, bowls over field in local caucus

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

If the Democratic Caucus were to be compared to a basketball game, the story in Arlington last Saturday is that a point guard slam dunked over two power forwards.

Robert Reich, he of the small frame but apparently the large organization, rode the efforts of a grass-roots campaign and the political support of state Rep. Jim Marzilli to pull a virtual upset sweep of Arlington's 36 delegates.

"It's actually remarkable. A lot of people attended the caucus, who I did not recognize. I didn't do all that much," said Marzilli.

While Reich formally pulled 33 of the 36 delegates, one of the uncommitted (Redevelopment Board member Norm Mann) is Reich's local campaign manager and another (David Curren) has already



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Candidate steps forward

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Some Arlingtonians may remember Jeffrey Anderson as the 18-year-old candidate for selectmen five years ago. In the five years since he lost his bid for office, Anderson has enrolled in the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, majoring in political science, and watched Arlington politics from a distance.



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This is a similar statement to when Anderson ran in 1997, although he admits he said it harsher back then when he was all of 18. Five years ago, there was an open seat on the board and a host of candidates ran for the slot along with incumbent Kathleen Kiely Dias, including Mahon and Paul Schlichtman, now a School Committee member. Jack Hurd took that open slot and Anderson received just more than 100 votes as a high school senior.

It is frustrating that more people his age do not join the political process, Anderson said.

Not that he feels that either Lyons or Mahon is doing a particularly bad job. In fact, he praised both of them, calling Mahon "very well spoken and pretty down to earth. And everybody knows Charlie Lyons," he said.

When asked the benign question of what was one thing that both of them could do better, he thought about it for a few minutes and said, "I don't really want to focus on anything negative. I guess that makes me a different kind of politician," he said, laughing. "I don't spend any money and I don't say anything bad about anybody else."

Anderson goes door-to-door with homemade fliers and his dad, a carpenter, makes homemade signs.

"The fact that candidates can spend thousands of dollars on a local election is just absurd," he said.

In the long run, Anderson said he wants to do better than he did last time and bring people out to the voting booths. Unfortunately, the renewed interest in public affairs that has accompanied the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks has not trickled down to local government.

"But that's why I'm running — to change that," he said.

With only a week remaining for candidates to take out papers for election, it has been a quiet political season thus far. No one really expected a candidate to emerge and challenge the two strong selectmen incumbents up for re-election this year — Diane Mahon and Chairman Charles Lyons.

But that's exactly why he is running, Anderson said.

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Fewer items on this year's Town Meeting warrant

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A total of 73 articles will appear before the town's legislative body at this year's Town Meeting, including citizen initiatives decrying the state's affordable housing law, promoting the idea of public power, and at least two articles asking Arlington to become more "green."

The total is less than the 95 articles that took eight sessions, or a full month, to complete in 2001. Yet there appears to be an increase in the scope, if not the amount, of voter-based petitions looking to make changes in public policy.

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While it hasn't been done in more than 70 years by any Massachusetts community, Schlichtman has said both in interviews and at a recent Finance Committee hearing that a public utility would both reduce electric bills and restore reliability.

Recently, the state's Department of Telecommunications and Energy requested a \$22.5 million fine be levied against private utility NStar to penalize the company for the outbreak of power outages that occurred last summer.

Saving energy in a different form comprises Article 22, which asks town officials to purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles provided they "fulfill the intended municipal function." While no one expects cops to be driving Honda Civics anytime soon, the article asks for "the most fuel-efficient car available" that meets qualifications.

The well-organized, well-funded and now lawyer-represented Friends of Poet's Corner submitted three policy-based articles.

One asks the town to publicly condemn the state's so-called "anti-snob" zoning law, or Chapter 40B. Designed to increase and provide equitable affordable housing if a community fails to achieve a 10 percent quota, 40B lets a developer appeal local zoning restrictions such as the density of units per acre if 25 percent of the developer's units are affordably priced.

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The second article asks the town's conservation officials to consider a piece of wetlands that has been cut off from other wet areas because of human activity. The article proposes that the same level of protection be given to that tract of land as normal wetlands. The state calls pieces of land, such as the few wet acres on the St. Camillus property where the Archdiocese would like to build housing, isolated land, which gives the land less protection.

A third asks for developers to pay an additional bond if they build on property 200 yards from a stream or wetland. The bond would be held for five years and constitute 20 percent of the property's value.

Store owners have pulled together to try and rescind the increased fee to sell cigarettes and tobacco products. A \$500 fee was approved last year at the request of Town Meeting member John Deyst after the Board of Health recommended an increase from \$25 to \$100.

"Twenty-five dollars was

ridiculously low, but I can understand how \$500 is a lot to a small business owner," said Carole Allen, chairman of the Board of Health.

Other citizen initiatives include alleviating non-profit businesses of the zoning requirement governing signs, establishing a committee on how funds from the passing of the Community Preservation Act could be used, and implementing a provision that any speaker before Town Meeting make public any financial gain to be rendered from the question at hand.

Government Articles

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The field house is one of the tenets of the deal between the town and industrial polluters to clean up the Warren A. Peirce Field and adjoining areas. A foundation of a potential field house would cap contaminated soil that lies beneath.

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An additional amount of money is required to finish the Hardy Elementary School, also included in a warrant article.

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its environmental design review, a new set of regulations governing potential developments. The board also submitted an article that sets regulations that incorporate bicycle parking into parking regulations throughout the town.

In addition, one of the pledges the town committed to in purchasing the former Symmes Hospital campus is that it would give money back to residents to reduce the tax rate once the property generated revenue. A warrant article asks Town Meeting to approve home rule legislation to implement that pledge.

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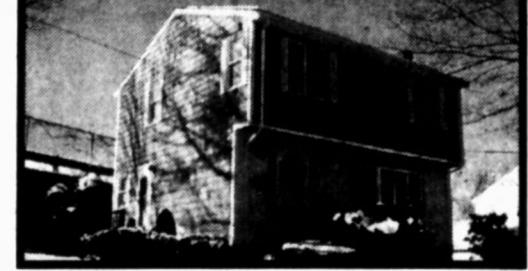
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Arlington: Move right in! Open living and dining area with recessed lighting. Hdwd floors, finished lower level, Dallin school. Near bus. \$390,000



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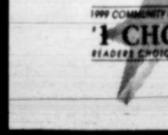


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Now, the college senior is ready for a second run for selectmen and hopes this time to attract a respectable number of votes and bring out an influx of new voters.

"My main goal is to at least get people involved in the democratic process who wouldn't normally get involved," said Anderson, dressed casually in a New England Patriots' long sleeve T-shirt after returning home from his 140-mile, three-day a week commute to New Bedford.

Anderson makes the journey to UMass-Dartmouth Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. He said he plans to attend graduate school in the fall (closer to home) and major in public administration. He also works at the Xerxes Elementary School in Newton in an after-school program.

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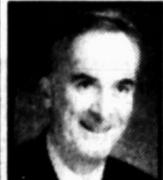
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Players weave tale next month

All Merely Players is proud to present its second production, "Charlotte's Web."

Based on E.B. White's timeless tale of true friendship, the story has been adapted to the stage by playwright Joseph Robinette.

Performances will be at St. Camillus Church Parish Hall on March 8 at 7 p.m. and March 9 and 10 at 2 p.m.

Seating is reserved. All Merely

Players does offer discounts to groups, and gladly welcomes classes, clubs, troops, whole families, and other organizations. For groups 20 or more, tickets are \$6 each. For groups 10 to 19, tickets are \$7 each. Individual tickets are \$8 each. Special arrangements are being created for young theatergoers.

For more information, please phone 781-648-3662 or e-mail allmerelyplayers@lycos.com

Blues are a joy for local photographer

Cooper receives arts council grant

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

When Arlington resident Margo Cooper started photographing the blues, she wanted to highlight more than performances. Cooper hoped to spotlight the blues experience and way of life.

The photographer wanted to show the whole range of the musicians and their music: onstage, offstage, how fans reacted to them, and view their environment.

Now, Cooper goes to Mississippi a couple of times a year and travels through the back roads, sweaty blues clubs, and family homesteads that dot the land-

scape of the northern hills of the Magnolia State. Through those journeys, she has become friendly with blues musicians and many locals in rural Mississippi.

Her photography shows blues men and women working their craft, such as B.B. King, Otha Turner, and Bo Didley, and the blues culture of Mississippi, in addition to shots of families enjoying a barbecue and a local pulling a net-full of fish from muddy waters.

"The blues is heart and soul," said Cooper. "Blues is the people's music and its impact is felt around the world. The blues can bring people together, yet it can be just as powerful when played or experienced alone. The blues

evokes response; you can dance to the blues, sing the blues, cry or laugh when listening to the blues. The blues is life, energy, and feeling."

Cooper sure wasn't feeling blue when she received one of 22 grants from the Arlington Cultural Council, which is a local cultural council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and receives yearly funding to support the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington by dispersing funds to deserving applicants, either individuals or organizations.

Cooper was in high school when she first came down with the blues. Over the years, she worked as a public defender, but still couldn't shake the blues — not that she minded.

Cooper always dreamed of meeting some of the blues legends and experiencing their surroundings. In 1993, Cooper started taking photos of blues musicians and five years ago, started traveling to Mississippi to catch a glimpse at the blues culture.

"I didn't know what to expect when I first traveled to Mississippi and Chicago," she recalled. "Every trip has been amazing; the hospitality unforgettable. Many of the blues greats were gone before I started my journey; some have passed since that time. So, I feel very lucky every time I get to hang out with musicians like Sam Carr and Otha Turner again, just can't get enough."

After six years as a public defender, Cooper took a year away from law and enrolled in a photography course. She wanted to start a documentary photo project and began taking shots at local blues clubs. She also volunteered for a magazine called "Blues Wire," which focused on musicians and events around New England.

After "Blues Wire" closed, Cooper started working with "Living Blues," a magazine based out of Mississippi.

Cooper has used her own money to fund the trips and costs associated with her hobby. However, after seeing an announcement in *The Advocate* last year mentioning that the Arlington Cultural Council was seeking applications, Cooper called council co-chair-

man Shari Craig.

"Shari was extremely helpful. It's important to know that there are people volunteering their time working on a committee, who are generous with their time and support. [Craig] really guided me through the process," said Cooper.

One of Craig's ideas was for Cooper to contact the Arlington Center for the Arts, which agreed to host an upcoming fall show featuring the photographer's work and blues music.

"When you talk about grants coming from a community, it reflects on the community that there are people out there who are committed to the arts," she said.

For as much as Cooper appreciates Craig's help, the Cultural Council was equally as pleased with the photographer's work.

"We were very excited about the project," said Craig of Cooper's application. "It seemed like something that would benefit both her and the town. There's not a whole lot of blues music around Arlington."

On the subject of 2001 applications, Craig said the council received around 10 more than in 2000. Though the state budget quagmire looked as though the cultural council might have to deal with less money, Craig said the local group received about the same amount of funding as the previous year.

During this year, Craig said the council would like to gain more community dialogue. She said the group hopes to sponsor a meeting where representatives from many different factions in Arlington come together and talk about priorities in the arts. Craig added that the council also would like to sponsor its own project through a grant and will seek the public's thoughts on potential ideas.

If the council progresses with its own project this year, members have a supporter in artists like Cooper.

"It has been my good fortune that a dream, a drive and the love of photography brought me to the blues musicians and scenes I've encountered along the way," said Cooper.

Arlington Arts Council grants

The Arlington Arts Council's list of grant recipients. Of the 40 applications received, the awards for this year are as follows:

Cantilena, Inc.—choral concert — \$1,000
Daniel F. Marshall—concert of original music — \$1,418
Pasquale Tassone — dance/contemporary music — \$3,500
Ruth Harcovitz — music performance — \$500

Adria Arch — art catalogue and talks — \$1,300
Jennifer Ingram—Arlington landscape paintings — \$790

Mary Babic — photographs/bike path — \$950

Margo Cooper — photographs and lecture/blues musicians — \$2,254

Arlington Children's Theater — performances — \$1,000
St. Agnes School — art and science journal — \$400

Brackett School — Petticoat Patriot — \$315

Brackett School — Chariot of the Sun — \$325

Lesley Ellis School — dancer/artist in residence — \$

195 Townwide PTO Enrichment

— Dance Caliente — \$2,000

Peirce School — Chinese poetry — \$600

Stratton School — History Assembly — \$385

Thompson School — Bolivian band performance — \$700

Arlington Public Schools — arts collaborative — \$822

Arlington Center for the Arts — Performances in the Park —

\$2,000

Arlington Center for the Arts — Open Studios — \$2,000

Karen Welling — music, art, movement for seniors — \$960

Alvin Harding — wRECK-TANGLES sculpture — \$50

The 2002 grant cycle will begin on Oct. 15, when this year's applications are due (for projects completed in 2003).

Applications will be available starting in mid-September at Robbins Library, the Selectmen's Office, and at the AAC Town Day booth.

For more information, call

either David Silverman (781-646-5237) or Shari Craig (781-643-5807), or e-mail the AAC at arlington@mass-culture.org.

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PHOTO BY MARGO COOPER
One of the photos Arlington resident Margo Cooper took during her visits to the northern hills of Mississippi. Cooper takes photos relating to blues music.

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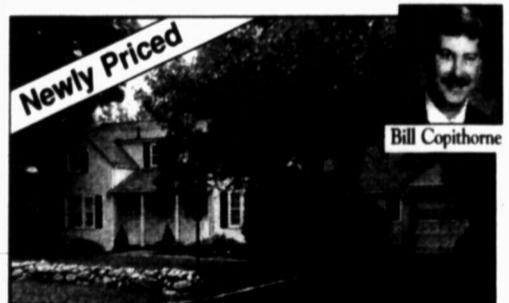
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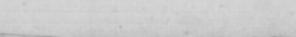
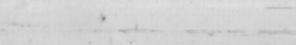
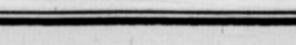
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AFD takes audience to Mexico in 'Iguana'

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

We're all too used to hearing about stories about finding hope and meaning in our changed world these days, whether it's feeding the hungry in a soup kitchen or shedding a hidden tear or two at U2's Super Bowl halftime show that memorialized the Sept. 11 attacks on Sunday.

Perhaps those finding atonement in the hands of despair should best look to those who came before them. Take in Tennessee Williams' "The Night of the Iguana" this weekend, performed by Arlington Friends of the Drama, for some research.

Amidst a dreamy deep blue backdrop painted with stars that look like swirls of mist are dimming their glow, "The Night of the Iguana" begins and ends in a run-down seaside resort in Mexico co-owned by Maxine (Sydelle Pitka), a desirous, recently widowed owner whose husband's death brings more relief from their nonexistent relationship than sorrow.

When she's not trysting with her bellhops Pancho and Pedro, the object of Maxine's affections is Lawrence T. Shannon (Will MacDonald), a defrocked priest unable to control or admit his appetites. Shannon, now a tour

guide, frequently defowers a young girl in his tour groups, all the while engaging in a spouting of rationalizing and denial.

His latest mistake catches up with him, as a chaperone on a Texas group's church tour finds out that Shannon has had a one-night affair with Charlotte Goodall (played with a thick as molasses southern drawl by Meghan Finnerty). The church leader sees through his deception, and Judith Fellowes (Janet Ferreri) engages him with a vehement hostility.

Inevitably his vicissitudes get the best of him. He loses his job, crashes psychologically, and Maxine picks up the pieces and holds on.

These two are joined at the resort by Hannah and her "97-years-young" grandfather Nonno (played by 35-year Arlington Friends veteran Ernest Stevens) and Hannah (award-winning actress Janet Dauray), orphaned early in her life, who exists on her own plane of self-denial — that of a spinster who has sacrificed her individuality and sexuality for her grandfather. The pair travel around the world, depending on their own talents (she paints watercolors) and "the kindness of strangers." A line those who know Tennessee Williams' work might find famili-

iar from Blanche DuBois in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Nonno, a poet, seeks the gentle breezes of the Mexican shore to finish his last verse as the sun sets on his own mind's faculties. Dressed in a Brahmin-like seersucker suit and bow tie, Nonno's shaky but dignified voice serves as a backdrop to the three other main characters' quests to seek some kind of salvation, as he recites verse in his room, the door closed to the audience.

Set during the Nazi Blitzkrieg of World War II, the amusing but contextually serious supporting cast, who play a pair of vacationing German couples, add another layer of darkness to a play surely headed for tragedy. The foursome parade on and off stage like a dance troupe, at times annoying, at times just silly, yet as they celebrate the bombing of London there is seriousness here, too. It all seems like we're heading for a bad ending — so it would seem.

Directed by Bob Eiland, who directed last year's production of

"The Miracle Worker," "The Night of The Iguana" paces slowly at times, and yet jars you at others. The intensity of the performance by MacDonald blazes with the pathetic nature of a man consumed by his own lies. Dauray, in contrast, brings the quiet intensity of a woman used to playing second fiddle, but not to be underestimated.

Set in the tourist off-season, the quietness of the resort lends to the melancholy, the chipped stucco and streaked paint of the resort's rooms casting another sad glow over the landscape.

There are other moments, including one that involves the reptile named in the title, that change the apparent path of this story.

Hope is to be found in "The Night of the Iguana." It just takes some time.

The show will be presented on Feb. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 at the AFD Theater, 22 Academy Street, Arlington Center. For tickets and information, call 781-646-5922 or visit the AFD Web site at afdtheatre.org

The Liberty Belle Chorus seeks female singers

The Liberty Belle Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, a competitive award winning women's chorus rehearsing in Arlington, is seeking adult female singers of all ages. You are required to be able to carry a tune, be interested in a cappella ensemble singing and four-part harmony. The ability to read music is not necessary; learning tapes are provided.

NEWS
Find out what's happening in your town! Read the Arlington Advocate every Thursday.

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info@libertybellechorus.org — web.libertybellechorus.org.

Society holding meeting

Musical Arts Society will hold its next meeting Sunday, Feb. 10 at the home of Dorothy Libardoni of Medford. The afternoon program includes selections for piano by Libardoni from composers Ludwig Von Beethoven, Zolenna Fibich, and Alexander Soraibin.

Lisa Park of Lexington, young violinist, accompanied by Sayuri Miyamoto, will play the first movement of a concerto in D by Tchaikovsky. Park is the recipient of the Musical Arts yearly award for outstanding youth musical accomplishment. She has studied at the New England Conservatory and the Longy School in Cambridge.

Selections by Bach and Handel

will be performed by Joan Bandini of Lexington, soprano, and Gertrude DeCosta of Arlington, piano.

The program concludes with the Allegro molto from a Beethoven Sonata performed by Rose Marie Gabler of Lexington and Angela Gazza of Arlington using all four hands at the piano.

The Musical Arts Society is open to amateur and semi-professional musicians from the area who would enjoy performing for and with each other. New members are welcome.

For more information and directions to the meeting please call Janice Zanganjori at 781-696-9760.

Next meeting on March 17.

Piano festival planned for May

The town of Arlington will hold its annual Piano Festival on May 5.

All Arlington piano students and/or students of Arlington piano teachers are invited to perform. The recitals will show-

case Arlington's talented teachers and their students at all levels from elementary to advanced adults.

For more information and applications call Angela Gazza at 781-646-7768.

Children's Theater will tackle Oz

Arlington Children's Theater will perform "The Patchwork Girl of Oz," in the summer of 2002. Adrian Mitchell wrote the book and lyrics for the show, the music is by Andy Roberts. The play is based on the third book in the Oz series, by L. Frank Baum.

The songs performed will include "Everybody Greets You in the Garden," "Cloudsurfer," and

"Long Away and Far Ago." The show teaches that when small people work together in harmony, great obstacles can be overcome.

For information or to be placed on the mailing list, write ACT at Post Office Box 1076, Arlington, MA 02476 or call 781-646-8204, Ext. 4. The fax number is 781-641-3769 or e-mail at AmberPaw@aol.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

BLOCK GRANT HEARING 3/11/02
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ARLINGTON



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM
PUBLIC HEARING

in writing. Applicants should provide twelve (12) copies of each proposal to be presented at the public hearing.

The Selectmen's Meeting Room is accessible for the mobility-impaired. If you require other assistance in obtaining access to the hearing or to the materials to be presented, please contact the Arlington Commission on Disabilities office at (781) 316-3431 during business hours.

Philip J. Farrington
Town Manager

Charles Lyons, Chair
Board of Selectmen

AD#772415
Arlington Advocate 1/31 2/7/02

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM 2/11/02
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ARLINGTON



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM
PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations formulated thereunder, notice is hereby given that the Town of Arlington, acting through the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen, will hold a Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Program. The purpose of this hearing is to receive proposals for funds for our CDBG Program Year XXVIII (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003).

Said hearing will be held at 7:15 P.M. MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002, IN THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ROBBINS MEMORIAL TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

The Town expects to receive approximately \$1,545,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for CDBG Program Year XXVIII. There is a HUD requirement that all funded programs must principally benefit persons of low and moderate income, aid in the prevention of slums and blight, or meet other urgent community development needs that pose a threat to the health or welfare of the community. For further information and technical assistance in determining eligibility of proposed programs and in preparing proposals for funding, please contact the Department of Planning and Community Development, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, Massachusetts 02476, at (781) 316-3090.

Proposals for the use of funds must be submitted

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Said hearing will be held at 7:15 P.M. MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002, IN THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ROBBINS MEMORIAL TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend. Written comments are also welcomed and may be submitted at the hearing or sent to the Department of Planning and Community Development, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476.

The Selectmen's Meeting Room is accessible for the mobility impaired. If you require other assistance in obtaining access to the hearing or to the materials to be presented, please contact the Arlington Commission on Disabilities office at (781) 316-3431 during business hours.

Philip J. Farrington
Town Manager

Charles Lyons, Chair
Board of Selectmen

AD#772417
Arlington Advocate 1/31 2/7/02

FROLIC DINER, INC.
LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE

Pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations formulated thereunder, notice is hereby given that the Town of Arlington, acting through the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen, will hold a Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Program. This public hearing is intended to obtain views from citizens, public agencies and other interested parties on housing and community development needs in the Town and discuss the performance of the CDBG Program and activities currently underway. An explanation of the funding process and eligibility requirements will be provided. Information gathered at the hearing will be used to assist the Town in the development of its Annual Action Plan as part of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for submission to the

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Said establishment proposes expansion from 190 Massachusetts Avenue to 190 and 192 Massachusetts Avenue. The establishment seeks to maintain the license to serve Wine & Malt Beverages. Only at the expanded location in accordance with the regulations of the Arlington Board of Selectmen. This hearing will take place on Monday, February 25, 2002 in the Selectmen's Board Room, Second Floor, Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington. The meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.

Beth Cohen, Chairperson
Pleasant Street Historic District Commission

AD#779684
Arlington Advocate 2/7/02

54 IRVING ST.
LEGAL NOTICE
JASON GRAY HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 8:45 p.m. in the Whitemore Robbins House, 670R Massachusetts Avenue, behind Robbins Library, to consider an application to replace existing shingle siding with like materials, replace 17 existing windows with new double-hung wood windows, replacement of existing gutter with wood gutter removal and rebuilding of front porch with wood materials at 54 Irving Street.

Beth Cohen, Chairperson
Jason Gray Historic District Commission

AD#779685
Arlington Advocate 2/7/02

ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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AD#779687
Arlington Advocate 2/7/02

205 PLEASANT ST.
LEGAL NOTICE
PLEASANT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 8:30 p.m. in the Whitemore Robbins House, 670R Massachusetts Avenue, behind Robbins Library, to consider an application to replace existing shingle siding with like materials, replace 17 existing windows with new double-hung wood windows, replacement of existing gutter with wood gutter removal and rebuilding of front porch with wood materials at 205 Pleasant Street.

Beth Cohen, Chairperson
Pleasant Street Historic District Commission

AD#779684
Arlington Advocate 2/7/02

54 IRVING ST.
LEGAL NOTICE
JASON GRAY HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 8:45 p.m. in the Whitemore Robbins House, 670R Massachusetts Avenue, behind Robbins Library, to consider an application to replace the front deck with like materials at 54 Irving Street.

Beth Cohen, Chairperson
Jason Gray Historic District Commission

AD#779685
Arlington Advocate 2/7/02

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1386 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington Heights, MA

LEARNING

Pancake breakfast

The 15th annual pancake breakfast is set for Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 to 11 a.m. Adults \$3.50, children, \$2.50, with a maximum family charge of \$12.

If interested in volunteering, call Fran Streifeld at 641-3807.

Please bring your used books (for kids and adults) for sale during the breakfast.

Books should be desirable and in great condition.

It's a great family event where Dallin kids, parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors come together for pancakes, coffee and conversation.

Payment can be made at the door or sent in to the school (checks should be made payable to the Dallin PTO). The menu includes pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee.

Play at Dallin

Information sheets are to be sent home Friday, Feb. 8, for students interested in acting in "Midsummer Night's Dream." Interested students should attend either the casting session on Tuesday, Feb. 12 or Thursday, Feb. 14, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Parents should not leave the children for the entire hour, as the students will only be needed for a short time to talk to the director. Parents are encouraged to stay with their children if they can.

Arrangements will be made for students in after-school. Parents of students who wish to participate should review the information sheet with their child and fill out the information in advance so the student can bring the form to casting. Parts will be available to all interested children in all grades.

First 766 PAC program

The Arlington 766 Special Needs PAC has a full schedule of speakers and roundtables planned for through spring.

The first is on "Basic Rights," presented by Donna Murphy, educational advocate with the Federation for Children with Special Needs. It will be at the Brackett School library on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Matters will be provided to attendees, so please let the group know whether you plan to attend so they have enough handouts. Parking is available along Eastern Avenue and in the parking lot off Fayette Street.

Murphy is a knowledgeable speaker about the rights of school-aged children with special needs and their families. All families with a child on an educational plan would benefit from this presentation.

Meetings are free and open to the public. All are welcome.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Week of Feb. 11

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Monday

Hamburger BLT, sun chips, carrot sticks.

Tuesday

Meatball calzone, tossed salad.

Wednesday

Fish and batter, onion rings, coleslaw.

Thursday

Stir fry teriyaki chicken, fried rice.

Friday

Grilled tuna and cheese, pretzels, fruit snack.

Sandwiches, salad, pasta, stir fry, grill and daily specials also offered daily.

Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with all meals.

ELEMENTARY

Monday

Baked manicotti, green beans, scalloped potatoes.

Tuesday

Spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread.

Wednesday

Chicken parmesan, mashed potatoes, green beans.

Thursday

Macaroni and cheese, green beans, garlic bread.

Friday

Spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread.

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SAT prep courses offered at regional school

BY BENJAMIN HARTMAN
STAFF WRITER

Lexington's Minuteman Regional High School officials say there is no need to spend a fortune taking SAT and PSAT preparation courses, when you can for a fraction of the cost, \$379. Course director and lead instructor Roberta Wolman is a veteran Minuteman English teacher and reading specialist.

Wolman began teaching SAT preparation in 1971. "I've been teaching this course in this community for 25 years well before anybody was doing this," said Wolman.

Due to her experience, she knows the SAT inside and out. Wolman buys and studies all SAT-related material, constantly reads about college admissions, and has taken the verbal portion of the exam more than 60 times.

"We know what the questions are before they come up; that's good teaching and experience. We prepare our instruction based on that experience," said Wolman.

Wolman and the two other instructors John Fusco and Andy Weiher, both Minuteman math teachers, prepare most of the review material themselves. Weiher worked for Kaplan for more than seven years.

"We don't have to deal with a canned product," said Wolman, referring to the commercial programs' tendency to stick with their own material.

Because all three instructors are full-time teachers, they know effective teaching methods, student academic weaknesses, and what topics the curriculum leaves out.

"They know how to explain the same thing 10 different ways, if that is what it takes," said Wolman about the math teachers. "We know curriculum. We know where the holes are in the curriculum, first hand."

For example, Wolman said high schools often fail to teach students complicated vocabulary, the backbone of the SAT verbal section.

"We don't enrich in the schools in the way

that we could," said Wolman. "The upper lever college bound courses do not systematically provide skill and drill on vocabulary and I think it's a pity."

So Wolman pounds vocabulary words into her students. "I see too many kids who can benefit from the cramming and the systematic study (of vocabulary)," said Wolman.

According to Wolman, most educators would say her style only prepares the students for the test and not for post test life, but Wolman disagrees.

"When I teach the course, I'm teaching skills at a very sophisticated level that arms kids for college-level reading," said Wolman. "I always say to kids there is life beyond the SAT. You want every kid to walk away with something he can use when the exams all over."

The SAT preparation course begins on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. For more information on this and other Minuteman courses visit the Web site www.minuteman.org or call 781-861-7250.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Walgreens Pharmacies, at both Arlington locations, will be trading your old, glass thermometers for a new, digital thermometer. The D.E.P. (Department of Environmental Protection) has distributed new, safer, digital thermometers for exchange from Sunday, February 10th until Saturday, February 23rd. Pharmacies across the state are working with the D.E.P. to divert mercury from household waste that is hazardous to the environment. Check with each pharmacy to get details.

The Town of Arlington has been exchanging thermometers since last April and will continue to do so until our supply of digital ones are gone. You can dispose of the toxic mercury thermometers at the Board of Health located in the Fox

Library at 175 Massachusetts on the corner of Cleveland Street, the Building Department located at 51 Grove Street or the DPW office located on the second floor of the Town Hall Annex. Please leave glass thermometers in the plastic case if possible. We are asking that each household take one thermometer to give everyone a chance to get one of the digital thermometers. You can also drop off thermostats or other mercury-bearing items at any of these town locations. Call the Department of Public Works at 316-3108 for details.

Recycling calendars

Watch your mail for the 2002 Recycling Calendars. Do not discard — this is not junk mail.

B.F.I. (Browning, Ferris Industries) will be mailing them to all residents of Arlington within the next few weeks. Look for the calendar inside the Town Planner Calendar.

The recycling calendar includes all the rules of the recycling program, telephone numbers to call and the schedule for 2002 pick-up dates. Additional copies will be available at the libraries, Council on Aging and Town Hall Annex, DPW office.

If your recycling was picked up on the triangle route last year, it will still be picked up on the triangle route and the same with households on the circle route. If you do not know which route you are on, you can check the DPW's Web site at www.town.arlington.ma.us/dpwst.htm.

ton.ma.us/dpwst.htm

Hazardous waste

The Minuteman Household Hazardous Waste site in Lexington is closed for the winter. It will reopen in April.

Water-based paint can be dried out and put in the regular trash. Oil-based paint and stains will need to be disposed of when the site reopens in the spring. If you change your oil and need to dispose of used oil, you can do so at the Winchester Transfer Station every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located off McKay Street near Winchester Center.

Please bring proof of Arlington residency to dispose of oil at the station.

Minuteman Tech hopes town pays equal share

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

enrollment at Minuteman. Of the 383 full-time students, 125, or 33 percent, come from here.

Because state aid is granted to cities and towns based on need, Phelps said Arlington has held a philosophy that it should pay less per pupil than richer communities in the district. Students attend Minuteman from wealthier towns such as Lexington, Lincoln, Wayland, Weston, and Belmont.

"We weren't getting credit for being a less wealthy town," Phelps said. "We have the largest enrollment, we clearly should pay the most, but (educational) reform provided a way to make things more equal."

Arlington's relationship with Minuteman has been cordial this year despite the angry rhetoric that has accompanied this debate in previous budget sessions. Fitzgerald said even a weak economy's pressures on his budget won't change that.

"I don't know what the final answer will be, but the discussions haven't been acrimonious," said Fitzgerald.

Minuteman's budget has increased by 8.5 percent this year, but assessments to each town will only increase by 3.7 percent, due to an influx of new students from Cambridge and expected increases in aid. Minuteman will increase its operating budget by 2.3 percent and ask for \$100,000 to fix its cooling system.

The operating budget hike is mostly attributable to salaries, insurance increases, and utility costs.

Groups against hate crimes

If you have witnessed or been the victim of a hate incident or crime or are concerned about a hate incident or crime, the following groups in Arlington are here to support you and assist you in whatever way they can. Please do not hesitate to call one or more of them.

Arlington Police Department — Chief Fred Ryan — 781-316-3900

Arlington Human Rights Commission — Sheri Baron — 781-646-0656

Arlington Department of Human Service — Patsy Kraemer — 781-316-2150

Arlington Public Schools — Joani LaMachia — 781-646-9130

Affirmative Action Advisory Committee — Barbara Boltz — 781-648-1079

African American Society — Nan Henderson — 781-643-5363

Board of Selectmen — Charles Lyons — 978-671-3602

Chamber of Commerce — David Walkinshaw — 781-643-4600

Commission on Disabilities — Barbara Cutler — 781-648-1813

Diversity Task Group of Vision 2020 —

Norah Lewis — 781-646-8203

Fair and Affordable Housing — Laura Wiener — 781-316-3429

Interfaith Association — Rev. Linda Privatera — 781-648-5962

League of Women Voters of Arlington — Jean Hopkins — 781-643-0349

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Committee — Janice Baley — 718-643-4345

Safe School Task Force/Arlington Schools — Cindy Bouvier — 781-316-3570

Vision 2020 Standing Committee — Jane Howard — 781-648-1936

Relay For Life holding rally

Please RSVP to Helene at 617-556-7475 or via e-mail at helene.palmer@cancer.org.

Comedy Night will be held on Friday, March 22 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Sons Of Italy Hall, 19 Prentiss Road, Arlington. There will be a cash bar, buffet and a 50/50 raffle. Admission is \$20 payable at the door after registering at 617-556-7475 or via e-mail at helene.palmer@cancer.org. Seating is limited.

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An Informational Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26th at 6:00pm.

The open house will take place at 15 Webster Avenue site.

Sign-ups for building tours will be available at the open house and in the Main Office of 15 Webster Avenue.

For more information, please call Cathy Traniello at (617) 629-5800.

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Blocking fire lanes could cost lives

The following was submitted by the Arlington Fire Department.

Have you ever parked a vehicle in front of a fire hydrant or in a fire lane? Have you ever had the need to call the Fire Department for an emergency and thought that it was taking a long time for them to arrive?

We all live in a rapid-paced society of instant Internet access, convenience shopping, fast food and fast money. So, when you need a place to park for a quick errand, you think any open space will do. However, clear and unobstructed access to fire hydrants and to buildings with high occupancy levels is necessary to allow the firefighters to provide the public with prompt and appropriate service in times of emergencies.

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you are probably typical of most people. Unfortunately, the public perception of fire hydrants and fire lanes is too often: "There's a space, it will only be a minute... this fire hydrant hasn't been used in years, it will only be a minute... there's plenty of room here for the fire trucks and my car too, I'll only be a minute... why do they need all this room for a fire truck, I have an important meeting to attend."

The common theme in all these scenarios appears to be: I need this space now and the Fire Department does not. Through this article, we hope to make our citizens more conscious of the threat to life safety when a hydrant is blocked or a fire lane is obstructed.

Fire trucks are long, wide vehicles that require

more space than most people realize to safely maneuver through intersections and corners. What may seem to be sufficient room to you may not be enough space for the fire truck.

So, please, when you see "No Parking — Fire Lane" signs near a corner or bend in a street, do not think: I can park here, the fire trucks have all the space in front of the building.

If vehicles park on both sides of that corner, the fire trucks cannot safely and promptly negotiate the turn and their response to the emergency will be delayed.

Time is life in our profession. Any delay, no matter how short, can result in the unsuccessful administering of life saving CPR, cardiac defibrillation and epinephrine intervention. In the case of a small room fire, with every minute, the fire triples in energy and smoke generation.

Without a rapid water attack at the seat of the fire, it will swiftly grow in intensity. During the next eight minutes, the temperature at the ceiling will rise to 1000 degrees, creating a deadly phenomenon called flashover. All of the combustibles will then spontaneously ignite in a flash of flame that will cause the death of anyone in the room, fire fighter or civilian.

The Arlington Fire Department is committed to providing appropriate, knowledgeable and professional service to the citizens of our community. In return, we only ask that you acknowledge and respect the need four fire lanes and fire hydrants to remain clear and unobstructed so that we may provide our life saving services.

The mouse that stereotyped

Human Rights dialogue explores media impact on children

BY HELENE NEWBERG
CORRESPONDENT

When it comes to entertaining young children, many families instinctively reach for Disney movies. Drawing on warm associations with Disney characters from their own childhood memories, parents of young children believe that Disney movies are not only better than many other available choices, but also wholesome on their own merit.

Diane Levin, professor of Early Childhood education at Wheelock College, encourages parents to reconsider.

"I started studying the impact of entertainment media on children about 20 years ago, when I noticed changes in the quality of their play," she said, remarked that the 20-year milestone coincides with deregulation of children's television programming.

Levin presented the 10th Arlington Human Rights Commission Arlington Dialogue last Thursday at Robbins Library. The Arlington Human Rights Commission sponsors quarterly dialogues on issues of concern to the Arlington public, including racial profiling, sexual harassment, affirmative action, and fair housing.

Marlissa Briggert of the commission said, "We decided to have a dialogue focusing on stereotypes in children's media because it seemed important and relevant to parents who are concerned with raising their children free from bias."

"We were thrilled that she agreed to lead the workshop. We were pleased with the large turnout, particularly in light of the ice storm [last Thursday]. Seeing so many people confirmed that the topic struck a chord with Arlington parents," said Briggert.

Deregulation of children's television increased the amount of commercial time allowed, reduced the amount of educational programming required, and made it easier to turn children's programming into marketing vehicles for accompanying toys, Levin said at the event.

"It squashes their creativity, when kids act out the movie by imitating the scripts they've seen," said Levin. "Kids often

don't understand what's going on or have direct experience, so their media-related play is straight imitation, often of the most graphically violent elements of what they've seen."

Media conglomerates, according to Levin, and the producers of the informational film, "Mickey Mouse Monopoly" exploit children developmentally by playing on fears.

"Because kids are wired to understand the world in terms of 'what is like what I know and what is not like what I know,'" said Levin, "Disney, and many others who produce children's entertainment, draw from and reinforce stereotyped attitudes toward race, class, and gender."

In terms of gender, Disney's portrayal of females involves a large chest and impossibly narrow waist, which has changed little since the 1940s, she added.

"Because kids pick up on the most salient features presented, male character bodies have become more impossibly muscled, female bodies have become increasingly unnaturally thin," said Levin, adding that the violence has become more graphic too.

Stereotyped characters often serve as a short-cut to inappropriate multicultural education, Levin said, and she also pointed a trail of stereotypes in Disney films:

Disney's "Pocohontas" portrayed the trouble between the European settlers and the Native Americans already present as a failure to understand one another, removing the genocide and colonialist motive behind the European land-taking from the dialog.

No black characters appear in the remake "Tarzan."

In "The Jungle Book," gorillas with black people's voices sing about wanting to "be like men."

For Latino, black, and Asian families, the message is "We can co-opt your culture, rewrite your history, then surround your child with lunch boxes, sheets, and movie tie-in toys we have taught your child to beg for," said Levin.

For children in white families, these stereotypes sometimes replace firsthand multicultural interactions which might otherwise shape a child's understanding of the world, she said.



"Most children's media does not have grown ups in roles we would want, since marketing to kids became OK," said Levin. "Young children, instead of seeing that grown ups are there to rely on, they see mothers and other grownups are usually undermined."

Levin told of a kindergarten-age boy who watched a movie without permission, then had to deal with his nightmares on his own because he wouldn't admit to his parents that he had disobeyed.

"Michael Eisner, Disney's chairman and CEO, has been quoted as saying, 'our job is not to please the audience, but to make money for our shareholders.' Deregulation established that it's the parent's job to protect the child, not the entertainment company," she said.

Levin cited at least one entertainment industry study using top child psychologists to help them better understand how to teach children to nag.

"My other answer is this: children are more resilient than we think. If we keep a finger in the dike as long as we can, so long as the water gets in slowly, then we need to learn how to talk about it," Levin said.

"Look at children and who they are, developmentally. What will help them the most. Look for parents with whom you share values."

Web site resources given to parents last Thursday, include www.trueteachers.org: Media Literacy, with suggestions for parents; www.mediad.org: information about "Mickey Mouse Monopoly" and other video projects; and www.cqcm.org: The Center for Quality Children's Media; film ratings.

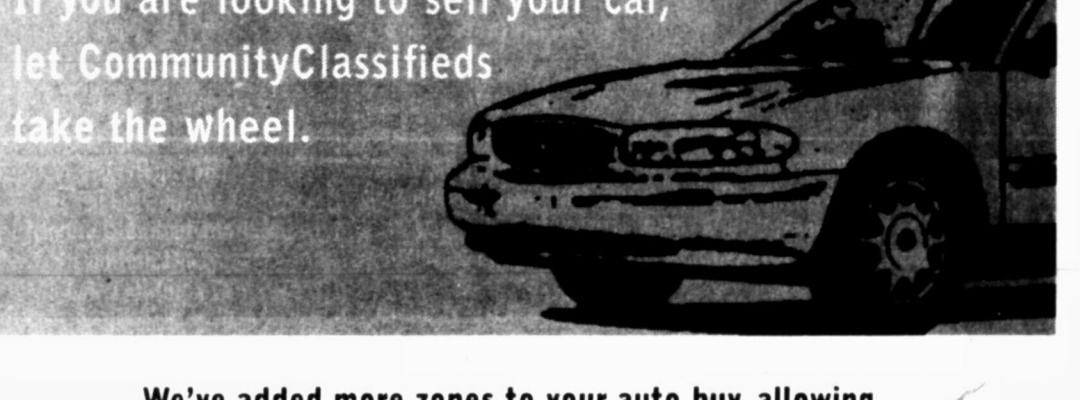
Those interested in future Human Rights Commission events are invited to call the office at 781-316-3250 to sign up for the mailing list.

THE STORK REPORT

• John and Sheila (McElroy) Masci of Arlington announce the birth of their son, Patrick Joseph Masci.

He was born at Brigham & Women's Hospital on Dec. 22, 2001. He weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and

was 19 inches long. He was welcomed home by his big brother, Jay, 19 months. He is the grandson of Patricia McElroy of Burlington, Arthur McElroy of Wakefield, and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Masci of Arlington.



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